



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Echoes from the Field.

Early Migration at Stockton, Cal.—*Petrochelidon lunifrons*. On the 15th of March I observed a colony of Cliff Swallows around a country barn, which is the earliest record for Central California, except that this and other species of swallows arrived at Murphys on March 15 in 1876 or 1877.

Tyrannus verticalis. First seen March 24, 1900 or two days earlier than any previous record for Stockton. On the 24th only one was seen and two days later I saw two more. No more appeared for several days, a cold spell having apparently checked migration.

The past winter was a very mild one with little or no frost and no sudden changes in temperature. The season is about two weeks earlier than usual but migrants are about on their usual time. LYMAN BELDING, Stockton, Cal.

Unique Nesting Site of Say's Phoebe.—A friend of mine residing near the foothills west of this city reports a curious instance of the nesting of Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*.) Sitting in an old shed he has a hawk mounted with wings spread, and on the shoulders of the bird, between the spreading wings, a pair of phoebes have built their nest and laid the usual number of white eggs.

W. L. BURNETT, Fort Collins, Colo., May 21, 1900.

Sage Thrasher in Los Angeles Co., Cal.—In Mr. Grinnell's 'List of the Birds of Los Angeles Co.' this species (*Oroscoptes montanus*) is recorded as a rare straggler from the desert, on the strength of a pair of birds taken by myself near San Fernando on March 13, 1897. At the time these were taken no others were seen and I naturally supposed that they were but accidental visitants. Since that date I have seen them several times in the same locality, and believe that they will be found to be of pretty regular occurrence in the county if looked for at the right time of the year. On Jan. 25, 1899 I secured three specimens and saw at least a dozen more, and on March 21, 1900 I saw a single bird but failed to secure it. All the birds seen were exceedingly wild, and as they are not at all a conspicuous bird, they may very easily be overlooked. H. S. SWARTH, Los Angeles, Cal.

Lewis' Woodpecker as a Flycatcher.—Mr. McGregor's notes on *Melanerpes torquatus* in the March CONDOR, concerning this bird's flycatching habits brings to mind many observations of my own while at Copperopolis, and makes plain to me the cause of their peculiar and erratic flight, which often arrested my attention. Often I have watched them leave a tree and pursue their jerky, irregular flight for a distance and then return to the tree, but as the birds were too far away for me to see the insect and not knowing that they took food on the wing, their actions were attributed to some peculiar habit. JOHN M. WELCH, Jamestown, Cal;

Notes From San Luis Obispo County, Cal.—On January 15 a man from the country brought me a cormorant which I took to be the Farallone, (*Phalacrocorax dilophus albociliatus*.) He said he had killed it the night before, while it was sitting on the windmill. The bird had "held down" the windmill the whole afternoon, sitting on the gear, the mill being tied down. The bird was in good condition, so it must have lost its bearings in the night as the place where it was killed is about forty-five miles from the ocean in a direct westerly line. The measurements were as follows: Length, 35.37 inches; bill along gape, 4.10; extent, 54.83; wing, 13.50; tail, 6.75. Bill bluish black on the top; pouch, yellow.

On January 22, I saw a flock of six Mountain Bluebirds (*Sialia arctica*) which is more than I have ever seen together here before.

Have seen quite a number of Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) this winter. Two years ago I saw but one pair but as nobody molested them they nested and last year I saw three pairs, and hope that they will increase, for about the only birds who sing constantly around town are the House Finches and Bullock's Orioles.

All the birds are laying early this year. Mr. E. B. Ballard of Creston took a set of two Golden Eagle on Feb. 15 and another set of two of the same species on the 16th of the same month.

Obtained a set of three California Screech Owl, heavily incubated, on the 15th of March.
CHAS. S. THOMPSON, Paso Robles, Cal.

The Indigo Bunting in Colorado.—Larimer is the most northern county in Colorado. Situated as it is, the western part is of rugged mountains, the southern and a portion of the eastern is covered with fertile farms while the northern and north-eastern is of barren plains, all of which offer to the bird student each year new surprises. This spring we had with us for several days a flock of eight or ten Indigo Buntings (*Passerina cyanea*.) Prof. Cooke in his list of Colorado birds says, "Rare if not accidental. Taken twice in Colorado, once in El Paso County, while the other specimen is in the Maxwell collection." The Maxwell collection is without labels but is supposed to have been taken about twenty years ago in the vicinity of Boulder, Boulder Co. This county joins Larimer on the South. The Indigo Bunting occurs regularly in eastern Kansas, and I think that in a short time they will come regularly to Colorado. One has but to note the changes in this section within the past twenty-five years, the barren plain with only a few trees along the streams has changed to cultivated farms with shade trees and young orchards. In a few years more we will probably be able to add many eastern species to our already large list of birds. W. L. BURNETT, Ft. Collins, Col.

Nesting of Say's Phoebe in California.—It may be interesting to report that on May 1, 1900 I collected a set of four eggs of Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) near this place, in which incubation was begun. The nest was fastened to the side of a cave and composed of dry grass plastered together with mud. Subsequently I collected two other sets of four eggs each, and Messrs. Morcom and Swarth of Los Angeles kindly assisted in the identification of the birds.

C. B. LINTON, Whittier, Cal.

Notes From Alameda, Cal.—The Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*) has been commoner at Alameda this winter than ever before. On Feb. 7 I took a ♂ the darkest I have yet noted. It had just eaten a California Towhee (*Pipilo f. crissalis*) and allowed me to approach within forty feet as it sat on the ground where it had been for some time. The hawk was quite thin and one leg had knit over an old break.

In the matter of discoloration of plumage of certain birds as mentioned by Richard C. McGregor in the January CONDOR (p. 18) some of the birds mentioned by Mr. Slevin were possibly shot by me, but the discoloration I attribute to their contact with the foliage of the cypress and pine, especially the latter and perhaps the eucalyptus. The most notable cases of discoloration under my notice have been in the California Purple Finch (*Carpodacus p. californicus*) shot at different seasons among the pines, except perhaps the Arkansas Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*), that feeds on a sort of gummy weed of the thistle variety. The Sharp-shinned Hawk spends considerable time among the pines as does the Desert Sparrow Hawk (*Falco s. deserticolus*.) Specimens of the latter that I have seen have been so soiled as to appear dark on the breast and much soiled-looking upon the wing and tail tips. The Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer*) is more or less soiled in individual specimens. It frequents these trees a great deal but a great amount of discoloration is due to its fondness for buildings and unused flues. The House Finch (*Carpodacus m. frontalis*) is often considerably soiled where nesting in pine and cypress trees and often feeds among the tar weed thistles with the goldfinches. A few specimens of Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*) and Russet-backed Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulatus*) taken breeding in pine and cypress groves showed no soiled plumages.

Replying to Mr. Joseph Mailliard's remarks in the CONDOR (I. 54) as to which sex predominates in winter residents in different localities, I give my observa-

tions for Alameda and vicinity;—Dwarf Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla aonalaschkæ*) ♂; Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) ♂ to a noticeable degree; Western Robin (*Merula m. propinqua*) ♀; Varied Thrush (*Hesperocichla nœvia*) ♀; Oregon Junco (*Junco hiemalis oregonus*) all ♂'s of over forty specimens taken during the past few years except ♀ March 11, 1899, ♀ March 24, 1900 and ♀ Alvarado, April 24, 1897; Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) all ♂'s in midwinter. Mexican Horned Lark (*Otocoris a. chrysolaema*) the few specimens taken were ♂'s; House Finch (*Carpodacus m. frontalis*) mostly ♂'s, often seen in pairs; California Purple Finch (*Carpodacus p. californicus*) mostly ♂'s, in plain garb; Cabanis's Woodpecker (*Dryobates v. hyloscopus*), a few noted, all ♂'s; California Clapper Rail (*Rallus obsoletus*) ♀'s by a large majority. D. A. COHEN, Alameda Cal.

Notes From Los Angeles, Cal.—I do not remember having seen the Pileolated Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla pileolata*) recorded as occurring in California during the winter, and I was considerably surprised to see one of this species feeding in a willow tree in the vicinity of Los Angeles as late as November 11, 1899. A few days later, happening to be passing the place again I saw apparently the same bird and after that I found that I was almost sure to find it within a few hundred yards of the spot, by looking for it. I saw this bird almost every week all through the winter and kept track of it until about the end of February, 1900 when it was lost to view.

During October and November 1899 I saw several Townsend's Warblers (*D. townsendi*) in this vicinity. They are quite rare here in the fall and I have probably not seen more than eight or ten in the last six years, but it is a singular thing that the fall birds are, without exception, females. In the spring they are rather more numerous, some years being quite abundant, but all that I have ever seen or taken around here in the spring were males.

On October 30, 1899 I took an adult female Black-throated Gray Warbler (*D. nigrescens*) which I think is the latest they have ever been recorded from here. I also saw a Macgillivray's Warbler (*Geothlypis tolmiei*) on what I think is a very late date for this bird, Oct. 24, 1899. I did not secure the bird but was close enough to it to see that it was either a female or an immature bird.

Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*) I have noted several times this winter, although I do not believe that it is known as a winter resident here. On Dec. 27, 1899 one was seen near San Fernando sitting on a bush singing; on Mar. 2, 1900 one was secured near Los Angeles, and a day or two later several more were seen. On May 2, 1900, they were seen near San Fernando in flocks of a dozen or more,

H. S. SWARTH, Los Angeles, Calif.

Tape Worm in Young Mountain Quail.—About one in ten of the young Plumed Quail (*Oreortyx pictus plumiferus*) in Nevada, Placer, Eldorado and probably other counties in the Sierra Nevadas are infested with tape worms. I have found the worms in the entrails, in the abdominal cavity and frequently under the loose skin of the abdomen, especially between the thighs and body. As I have never found a tape worm in an adult I suppose the young afflicted quails die before they reach maturity. I can usually distinguish the diseased bird by its sickly appearance. I do not know that these tape worms are dangerous to man but have reasons for thinking they are. Since 1885 I have never eaten a young Mountain Quail without skinning it and examining the bird very carefully. How the bird acquires the worm and what the name of the latter is,—if it has one,—is unknown to me. I have made three ineffectual attempts to get the species identified through alcoholic specimens, but failed to get a report. Have been informed that tape worms are sometimes, though rarely, found in the young Sooty Grouse of the Sierra Nevadas.

LYMAN BELDING, Stockton, Cal.

Nesting Notes From Tacoma, Wash.—The unusually warm spring has started the birds to housekeeping some two weeks earlier than is customary with them. An incubated set of two eggs of Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus alleni*) was found on April 14, and the mother bird sat with the utmost composure to have her

photograph taken at a distance of five feet. She seemed to feel that the two little pearls under her were perfectly safe in her keeping, and I am happy to add that she was not disappointed. On the 17th of April a set of two eggs of the same species was found on the point of hatching.

A nest of the Bush-Tit (*Psaltiriparus minimus*) containing seven fresh eggs was noted April 12. One of the most curious changes in nesting habits has occurred this season in a colony of Brewer's Blackbirds (*Scolecophagus cyanocephalus*.) In previous years they have nested in holes of the Red-shafted Flicker high up in some dead firs, but a visit a few days ago disclosed the remarkable fact that every bird is nesting in gooseberry bushes, no more than three feet from the ground. There is no apparent reason for this change of some seventy-five feet in altitude, for the holes used in previous seasons still appear to be in as good condition as ever.

J. H. BOWLES, Tacoma, Wash.

Western Winter Wren in Santa Clara Co., Cal.—I notice that Mr. Van Denburgh's county list does not give the Western Winter Wren (*Anorthura hiemalis pacifica*) as occurring in Santa Clara County. One specimen was taken Feb. 17, 1900, at Stevens Creek by a party of Stanford students, and is now in my collection.

ROBERT E. BRUCE, Stanford University, Cal.



Book Reviews

BIRD STUDIES WITH A CAMERA.—By Frank M. Chapman, pp. 214, with numerous half-tone illustrations. D. Appleton & Co., New York. Cloth. \$1.75.

In this day of bird photography, when enthusiasts are afield by the score each summer seeking out the haunts of nesting birds, it is a pleasure to be taken into the confidence of one who speaks not authoritatively of his own work, but whose results bear eloquent testimony of his adaptability to bird photography. Unquestionably Mr. Chapman holds the position in America which the Kearson Bros. have long held in England,—that of the most successful portrayer of bird life with the camera.

In his substantially entertaining book Mr. Chapman does not stop to indulge in photographic theories and the like, but proceeds at once to illustrate his subject in a most pleasing manner. After discussing briefly and generally the apparatus necessary for successful field work, and explaining the work which may be expected of the various patterns of lenses, the author has combined his experiences into appropriate groups and takes the reader afield with him to witness, in imagination, just how the various negatives were secured.

There is not a dry paragraph in the book, nor scarcely one which does not relate Mr. Chapman's personal experiences, all of which gives the work immeasurably greater interest than would a mere treatise on the subject. The chapter delineating the home life of the Chickadee and portraying a family of nine fledglings is one of the most delightful in the book, although the chapter devoted to photography in a swamp would prove a close second.

Over 100 excellent half-tone illustrations by the author, depicting marsh, land, shore and sea birds in their homes, lend additional charm to the volume. Those who have already engaged in similar work afield will find many excellent suggestions in the work, while the beginner will be enthusiastically impressed with the field of delightful possibilities which lies before him. *Bird Studies With a Camera* is easily the most striking and valuable work on bird photography which has appeared in America. —C. B.

A MONOGRAPH OF THE FLICKER (*Colaptes auratus*).—By Frank L. Burns. Wilson Bulletin No. 31. April, 1900, pp. 82. One plate.

Another substantial publication is credited to the Wilson Ornithological Chapter in the appearance of this exceedingly complete publication. Mr. Burns has collaborated his results in a more systematic and pleasing manner than even that which marked the able Crow Bulletin issued under his supervision some years ago, and the present publication is in fact what the name implies,—a monograph. The paper opens with a list of the scientific and vernacular synonyms of this species, the latter reaching the surprising number of 88, and giving the localities in which each name is current. The life history of the species is then taken up in consecutive chapters such as Geographical Distribution, Flight, Migration, Roosting, Voice, Mating, Nidification, Eggs, Incubation, Young, Molt, Food, Plumage, Hybridism, Atavism, each chapter being singularly valuable in its deductions. The entire paper is obviously the product of careful study and thought and embraces notes from a wide list of field workers. This monograph should be in the library of every working ornithologist.

LEGISLATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF